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## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Venezuela

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1. As of 11:30 a.m. on 1 March 1949, 90 per cent of the oil workers at the Cabimas and Tia Juana fields in Venezuela were reported to be on strike. Office workers were continuing on the job. Conditions were reported to be otherwise normal at Maracaibo and at other points in the lake area.
2. The Venezuelan Army planned to place a corps of soldiers around the Cabimas district and these soldiers had orders to shoot any strikers who would not remain in their homes. The strike was orderly as of that time.
3. In Caracas conditions appear normal with the exception of a lack of newspapers. The newspaper workers had agreed to return, and publication was expected to commence 2 March 1949.
4. Reports indicating the definite instability of the present military junta continue to be received. These reports indicated that various groups of civilians and Army personnel were pressing the junta on policy matters and personnel changes. Arrests of both civilian and military elements have taken place. Some very prominent Conservative and rightist civilians have been requested to leave the country.

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Comment. The situation continues extremely fluid and uncertain.

Extracted by E.A.R.

BY CABLE

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